

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7992
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BERLIN 05368

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM FOR DOGOLOFF

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, GE, GW, WB
SUBJECT: COOPERATION WITH THE GDR IN NARCOTICS

REFS: A) STATE 204755, B) STATE 190578, C) BERLIN 5312,
D) BERLIN 1950, E) BONN 14506, F) USBER 1901

1. SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR HAS URGED COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND GDR AUTHORITIES IN CONTROLLING ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. THE GDR HAS TOLD US THAT IT WILL SEND EXPERTS TO THE VARNA CUSTOMS CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER AND IN SEVERAL OTHER WAYS HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS BECOMING CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND MAY BE INTERESTED IN SOME FORM OF COOPERATION WITH THE US IN THIS FIELD. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH GDR WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL QUESTION OF NARCOTICS SMUGGLING THROUGH THE GDR AND THE KIND OF COOPERATION WE PROPOSE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS
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(REF A) THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE ACTIVELY TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION WITH THE GDR ON NARCOTICS CONTROL. AMBASSADOR WILL LAY PARTICULAR STRESS ON THIS AREA OF COOPERATION WHEN MEETING WITH FONMIN FISCHER, PER INSTRUCTIONS REFS A AND B. WE DO NOT YET HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FISCHER AND THEREFORE, AS AN INTERIM STEP, THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH ACTING

DEPFONMIN ROSE ON AUGUST 15 (REF C). AMBASSADOR TOLD ROSE THAT US AND GDR HAD COMMON INTEREST IN PROBLEM OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC AND SUCH INTEREST CONSTITUTED A BASIS FOR COOPERATION. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL, COOPERATION WOULD HAVE A FAVORABLE IMPACT ON PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION AND WOULD THUS WOULD THUS FURTHER BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO URGED THAT GDR SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO VARNA NARCOTICS CONFERENCE. MFA US DESK OFFICER ELM INFORMED US AUGUST 16 THAT GDR WOULD SEND EXPERTS TO VARNA MEETING. WE FIND THIS A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT, WHICH MAY IN PART BE A RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION AND ALSO REFLECT A GDR POLICY DECISION TOWARD SOME DEGREE OF COOPERATION. WE MAY GET BETTER IDEA OF GDR GENERAL WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WHEN THE AMBASSADOR SEES FISCHER AND IN CONNECTION WITH GDR PARTICIPATION AT VARNA.

4. IN GENERAL, WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY SOME RECENT SIGNS THAT THE GDR IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SOME FORM OF COOPERATION. IN ADDITION TO INDICATING INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE AT VARNA MEETING, THE GDR HAS WELCOMED INFORMATION AND MATERIAL FROM THE US

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ON NARCOTICS. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN AN INCREASE IN PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE IN THE MEDIA. THE AUG. 9 ISSUE OF HORIZONT (NO. 32), THE GDR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEEKLY, CARRIES A LONG ARTICLE ON THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS PROBLEM BY ULRICH SCHNEIDERWIND, THE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR NARCOTICS IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, (REF D. PARA. 4A). HIS CENTRAL THEME IS THAT ILLEGAL DRUG ABUSE IN WEST BERLIN, THE USE OF WEST BERLIN AS A TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR ILLEGAL DRUGS TRAFFIC, THE USE OF NARCOTICS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, AND TRAFFIC OF ILLEGAL NARCOTICS THROUGH THE GDR, REPRESENT A THREAT TO THE CITIZENS OF THE GDR. (THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC ADMISSION OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE THAT DRUGS GO THROUGH THE GDR.) AS A RESULT, THE GDR IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CONTROLLING NARCOTICS BOTH THROUGH DOMESTIC ACTION AND THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. ON THE LATTER POINT, THE ARTICLE STATES THAT THE GDR IS A PARTY TO A NUMBER OF NARCOTICS CONVENTIONS AND IS A MEMBER OF THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE PEOPLES OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE POTENTIALLY ENDANGERED BY NARCOTICS SO LONG AS THERE IS DRUG ABUSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND CONSEQUENTLY THEY WISH TO COOPERATE IN THE

WORLDWIDE STRUGGLE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ITS EFFECTS.
THIS, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT THE GDR'S NORTHERN AND
WESTERN NEIGHBORS ARE TRADITIONAL CONSUMERS OF NARCOTICS,
MAKES THE CONTROL OF NARCOTICS OF SPECIAL
IMPORTANCE TO THE GDR.

5. WE BELIEVE THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE ARTICLE
PROBABLY REFLECT GENUINE GROWING CONCERN WITHIN THE GDR
ABOUT THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND THAT IN PRINCIPLE THE GDR
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH THE US.
WHETHER AS A PRACTICAL MATTER THE GDR WOULD ACTIVELY DO
SO WOULD DEPEND IN LARGE PART, WE ASSUME, ON THE NATURE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BERLIN 05368

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM FOR DOGOLOFF

OF THE COOPERATION PROPOSED, HOW IT IS PRESENTED, THE
NATURE OF THE PROBLEM AS PERCEIVED BY THE GDR, PARTICULARLY
IN TERMS OF ITS DOMESTIC DIMENSION, AND WHETHER
COOPERATION OR LACK OF IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO OR REDUCE
ITS IMAGE AS A RESPONSIBLE STATE, ESPECIALLY IN A
EUROPEAN CONTEXT. WE ASSUME THAT THE EXISTENCE
OF ACTIVE, POSITIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN USSR/EE
GOVERNMENTS AND THE US WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE
GDR TO ADOPT A CONSTRUCTIVE,
COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE.

6. AS WE HAVE NOTED ABOVE, THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY
BROACHED THE GENERAL MATTER AT THE DEPFONMIN
LEVEL AND WILL DO SO AT THE FONMIN LEVEL. WE HAVE ALSO
RAISED QUESTION OF GDR PARTICIPATION AT VARNA AT THE

DEPFONMIN AND DESK LEVEL. WE BELIEVE IT IS BEST
AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT TO CONTINUE TO USE
EMBASSY BERLIN CHANNELS IN DISCUSSING COOPERATION RATHER
THAN USE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION CONTACTS (REF E.
PARA 4). IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE THE US DESK IN THE MFA
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MUST BE INVOLVED AT AN EARLY STAGE IF THE GDR IS GOING
TO CONSIDER COOPERATION SERIOUSLY. OTHER CHANNELS
SUGGESTED COULD BE USED LATER, DEPENDING IN PART ON
THE GDR'S REACTION.

7. IN CONNECTION WITH OUR NEXT APPROACHES TO THE
GDR IN SEEKING TO ELICIT THEIR COOPERATION, WE THINK
IT DESIRABLE AND NECESSARY TO PUT THE PROBLEM IN ITS
PROPER DIMENSIONS, WHERE WE THINK THE GDR FITS IN THE
PICTURE, TO ASK THE GDR HOW IT SEES THE PROBLEM (USING
SCHNEIDERWIND'S ARTICLE), AND TO SUGGEST VARIOUS AVENUES
OF COOPERATION IN WORKING ON A PROBLEM THAT IS IN OUR
MUTUAL INTEREST TO TRY TO RESOLVE. IN CONNECTION WITH
THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM, WE WERE PARTICULARLY STRUCK
BY THE MISSION'S CABLE OUTLINING THE VARIOUS WAYS
NARCOTICS ENTER WEST BERLIN AND THE FRG. THE GDR (I.E.
SCHOENEFELD) WOULD APPEAR TO BE ONLY ONE, ALBEIT POSSIBLY
MAJOR, CHANNEL. WE WOULD NOT, THEREFORE, WANT TO
SUGGEST THAT THE GDR IS THE ONLY CULPRIT, OR THAT WE
EXPECT THE GDR TO ASSUME THE BURDEN OR
RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTROL ALONE. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE
TO BE ABLE TO INDICATE THAT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO
CONTROL THE FLOW OF NARCOTICS AT THE NON-EUROPEAN
SOURCE AND AT THE DESTINATION AND WHAT THESE MEASURES
ARE (I.E. IN TURKEY, FRG, ETC.). THE BEST APPROACH TO
THE GDR WOULD BE TO SEEK THE GDR'S COOPERATION TO CLOSE
OFF ALL POSSIBLE CHANNELS IN WHAT IS REGARDED AS A
PROBLEM THAT CUTS ACROSS A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. WE
WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BE ABLE TO INDICATE THE KINDS OF
COOPERATION, ASSISTANCE, ETC. WE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER,
AS WELL AS THE KINDS OF INFORMATION WE WOULD FIND IT USE-
FUL TO OBTAIN FROM THE GDR. WE SEE LITTLE PROBLEM IN
LETTING THE GDR GET POLITICAL "MILEAGE" OUT OF COOPERATION
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ON THE NARCOTIC ISSUE. THIS WOULD BE A SMALL "COST"
TO PAY IF THE COOPERATION LED TO ACTUAL INTERDICTION OF
NARCOTICS (REF E, PARA 5).

8. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION, WE ARE INCLINED AT THIS STAGE TO AGREE WITH EMBASSY BONN THAT WE SHOULD ONLY SUGGEST INTERDICTION AT SCHOENEFELD (REF E, PARA 7). IN DOING SO, WE WOULD WANT TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY WE ARE SUGGESTING SCHOENEFELD IN TERMS OF (1) INFORMATION WE HAVE THAT IT IS A SOURCE OF ENTRY OF NARCOTICS INTO THE GDR AND (2) HOW THEIR COOPERATION WOULD COMPLEMENT (IF THIS IS INDEED THE CASE) CONTROL MEASURES BEING IMPLEMENTED IN TURKEY. CONCERNING USBER'S SUGGESTION (REF F, PARA 14) THAT ER URGE THE GDR TO REQUIRE THAT ALL PASSENGERS TRANSITING TO WEST BERLIN USE THE WALTERSDORFER CHAUSEE CROSSING POINT, WE THINK THE GDR COULD POINT TO MANY LEGITIMATE REASONS WHY THIS IS IMPRACTICAL (FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT ABOUT PASSENGERS BOUND FOR WEST BERLIN WHO MAY, FOR LEGITIMATE OR NEFARIOUS REASONS, HAVE LEFT THEIR CARS AT SCHOENEFELD?). WE THINK THE BETTER APPROACH WOULD BE TO SUGGEST THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER OUR TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE RE INTERDICTING DRUGS AS PASSENGERS PASS THROUGH PASSPORT/ CUSTOMS CONTROLS. FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO THE STATUS OF BERLIN, WE SEE NO PURPOSE IN SUGGESTING INCREASED CONTROLS AT THE FRIEDRICH STRASSE STATION CROSSING POINT, UNLESS ADDRESSEES HAVE SOLID INFORMATION SUGGESTING THIS IS MORE OF A PROBLEM THAN SCHOENEFELD. IN TERMS OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEST BERLIN, WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY BONN (REF E, PARA 9) THAT ANY DIRECT APPROACH BY THE FRG WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE AND MIGHT WELL FRIGHTEN OFF THE GDR.

9. REF A NOTES THAT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BERLIN 05368

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM FOR DOGOLOFF

NARCOTICS ABUSE WILL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER IN WEST BERLIN.
WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN OUR GENERAL
PRESENTATION TO POINT OUT THE POTENTIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS
IMPACT THESE HEARINGS MAY HAVE, AND INTEND TO MAKE THE
POINT IN PASSING UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE.

10. WE WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL (REF A, PARA. 4)
FOR MEETING IN WEST BERLIN OF NARCOTICS COORDINATORS
FROM EMBASSIES BONN, BERLIN AND USBER AS
ADDITIONAL STEP IN CONTACTS WE HAVE ALREADY HAD WITH
MISSION NARCOTICS COORDINATOR. BOLEN

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